



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

August 23, 2005

News Release

IRANIAN FUGITIVE ARRESTED BY ICE AND PALM BEACH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PALM BEACH, FL – A 53-year-old citizen of Iran with convictions ranging from possession of a controlled substance and larceny to driving under the influence (DUI) was arrested here Wednesday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportation officers assigned to the Fugitive Operation Task Force and officers of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office.

Valod Atini entered the United States as a lawful permanent resident (LPR) on March 8, 1978. As an aggravated felon, Atini was placed into removal proceedings on April 21, 1989. Atini, who failed to appear before the immigration judge, was ordered removed in absentia on Oct. 17, 1989. His subsequent appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) was dismissed on Feb. 8, 1991.

Atini had been given the opportunity to voluntarily surrender, but he failed to do so and opted to hide instead. Atini had been a fugitive since 1991.

"We will continue working with our law enforcement partners to ensure that criminals who have no legal right to remain in the country are arrested," said Michael Rozos, field office director for detention and removal. "Atini violated his pact with the U.S. government the moment that he broke our nation's laws. His case sends the clear message that having a legal status in this country doesn't give anyone a ticket to break our laws."

Atini is detained at the Krome Detention Center in South Florida. His removal from the country is imminent.

Rozos commended the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office for their support in arresting this fugitive.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.